

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 40-51 are presented for consideration. Claims 40, 44, 46, 47 and 51 are independent. Claim 40 has been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Specifically, claim 40 has been amended in response to the Examiner's comments set forth in the above-identified Communication. Support for this change can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action dated December 31, 2003, for the reasons stated in the Amendment filed March 31, 2004.

Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in independent claim 40, 44, 46, 47 and 51, is patentably defined over the cited art.

Dependent claims 41-43, 45 and 48-50 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicants further submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
SEW/eab

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